Nov. 14-16, 2002

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **November 14** and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **November 15 and 16**. This issue of Executive Notes is intended to provide you with a sum mary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at these meetings.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities

Provincial Executive reviewed the Priorities Document which outlines action plans, who is responsible, target dates for implementation and action updates for the Association. The four priorities are: quality of teachers' work life; membership involvement; communications/public relations; teacher accountability/ assessment/ professionalism/ certification. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

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President's Report

Since the September meeting of Provincial Executive the President has continued his visitation program to schools within the Province. To date he has visited over 170 schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. Many issues have been raised among the teachers in the schools during these visits including problems with workload, new school construction, class size, lack of resources, etc. The President has also attended meetings with the Canadian Teachers' Federation in his role as Vice-President of CTF, participated in meetings of the PD Alliance (Building a Professional Learning Community), taken part in World Teachers' Day events, attended the PEITF Annual Convention, met with SAC District 6 Executive members, attended the Retired Teachers' Association Biennial General Meeting in Gander, the Program Specialists' Conference in St. John's, brought greetings at the Student Leadership Seminar in Stephenville, participated in the CBC "Learning Curves" Public Forum, and attended meetings with the St. John's School Representatives, the Executive of the Clarenbridge Branch, and the Landfall Branch. He has also been interviewed by various media on issues such as bullying, standardized testing, World Teachers' Day, the launch of the CDLI and the Virtual Teacher Centre.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Labrador Benefits Negotiations
Meetings between both parties were to occur in Goose Bay on November 22 aided by a Conciliation Officer. However, since Government's Chief Negotiator was unable to attend, the meetings have been postponed to a later date.

For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Workload Committee
The NLTA continues to pursue the carrying out of the workload study under Schedule M of the current Collective Agreement. The Association will engage in a partnership with government and the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association for the completion of a workload study and through the efforts of the NLTA representatives on the Workload Study Committee will ensure that the boundaries of the study go as far as possible towards including all issues which the Association wishes to have studied.

For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees
TABLE OFFICERS
The theme for the 2003 Biennial General Meeting will be "The Power of Learning".

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE
The chairperson and staff consultant for the Membership Benefits and Services Committee will meet with the School Representative Seminar Planning Group to discuss appropriate modifications to the draft agenda that will achieve the goal of enhancing the role of teacher advocacy among school representatives.

For further information contact Paul Matthews, Chairperson, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

COMMUNICATIONS/POLITICAL ACTION
The Opening Ceremonies for Education Week will be in Corner Brook. An additional $10,000 will be allocated to the Communications budget for advertising and publicity for Education Week.

For further information contact Fred Wood, Chairperson,

Communications/ Political Action Committee, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Joint Council

PRE-BUDGET PLANNING SESSION

A session at the Joint Council meeting provided Branch Presidents the opportunity for input into the 2003-2005 budget preparations. This input will assist the Finance and Property Committee in the preparation of the preliminary draft budget. A preliminary draft budget will be approved by Provincial Executive for presentation to the February Joint Council meeting. Advice from the February meeting will be considered by the Finance and Property Committee when completing its final draft to Provincial Executive.

For further information contact Wayne Lee, Chairperson, Finance and Property Committee, or Jim Fox Treasurer.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Joint Council was addressed by Mr. John Staple, Director of Economic Services with the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Mr. Staple updated Joint Council on collective bargaining issues within other teacher organizations across Canada, the collective bargaining environment and outcomes of recent negotiations.

A presentation on Provincial Collective Bargaining was made to Joint Council by Mr. Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director. This presentation included an update on NLTA policy re Collective Bargaining, the duration of the agreement, the Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act, NLTA Policy and Legislation re the collective bargaining process, and communications to teachers during negotiations.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, Edward Hancock, Executive Director, or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Policy on Province-Wide Vote for President and Vice -President

Joint Council reviewed and approved the policy governing the election of the NLTA President and Vice-President by province-wide vote. The ad hoc Elections and Procedures Committee completed its work and submitted its recommendations to Provincial Executive in January/February 2002. These recommendations were published to all members in late spring with an invitation for feedback. Minimal feedback was received and Table Officers reviewed the recommendations from the committee in August and September 2002. As a result, recommended policy statements were brought to Provincial Executive in September and Executive approved the policy. It was then presented to Joint Council for approval. The full statements of by-laws and policies will be printed and forwarded to all schools for the information of the membership.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Group Insurance
A presentation was made by Don Ash of the Benefits and Economic Services Division re Group Insurance. The presentation included a brief overview of the group insurance plan, including the responsibilities of group insurance trustees, and the roles of Johnson Inc. and government. Discussion focussed on the increasing prescription drug costs and resulting increasing premiums which have been experienced in the NLTA plan, and will continue to be experienced for the foreseeable future.

For further information contact Don Ash, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

"Give to Feel Good" Campaign
A presentation was made to Joint Council concerning the "Give To Feel Good" Campaign. The presentation was made by Mr. Ed Martin, lead volunteer with the Campaign, and Juanita Dinn, Communications Officer with the Campaign. The "Give to Feel Good" Campaign is a volunteer-led program organized to meet a minimum need of $40 million for medical equipment and technology. Provincial Executive is currently investigating the possibility of involvement in the campaign. Information will be sent to School Representatives re the campaign and asking teachers to fill out a short questionnaire re possible involvement.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Virtual Teacher Centre
A presentation was made to Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive by Alex Hickey, Co-ordinator of the Virtual Teacher Centre. This presentation examined the context for the Virtual Teacher Centre, reviewed a number of activities on the site, and discussed how the VTC supports the professional growth of teachers as well as professional growth opportunities that are available now on the VTC site. It was explained in the presentation that the VTC is about building capacity; professional leadership and vision; innovation and research; risk-taking; new ways of doing business; building partnerships; community development; using technology to meet human needs; and learning and knowledge-building.

For further information contact Alex Hickey, Co-ordinator, Virtual Teacher Centre.

Professional Development Alliance Model
A presentation was made by Beverley Park and RenŽ Wicks on the Professional Development Alliance's model for Professional Development in the province. The model places the educator at the centre and emphasizes the concept of personal professional choice in determining relevant PD needs, balanced with the needs of schools, districts, and the education system. Other components of the model

which impact on PD are policy/guidelines, needs analysis, professional development delivery, and forms of professional development. The model also emphasizes the principle of lifelong learning and demonstrates how all professional development is focussed on enhancing student learning. The Professional Development Alliance includes school districts, the Department of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the NLTA.

For further information contact Beverley Park or RenŽ Vicks, Professional Development Division.

NLTA Policy Changes

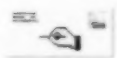
A number of changes in policy statements since the February 2002 Joint Council meeting were approved by Joint Council. These policies provide direction for continuity of decisions and guidance to those who take positions on behalf of the Association. The amended policies included: investment policies, procedures and guidelines; Special Interest Council membership fees; policy governing the electoral committee; policy on the death of a member; policy on presentation of provincial awards outside BGM; and policy on the T-4 program.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Other Business

The by-laws for the newly amalgamated Baccalieu Branch were approved by Provincial Executive.

For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.



Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for follow-up or future discussion: the Kinderstart program; high school math curriculum; workers' compensation; NLTA Benefits and Insurance for seconded teachers; workload; class size; Occupational Health and Safety Committees; professional development days; and educational staff records.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **January 17 and 18, 2003** in St. John's. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.